

February 13, 2009

To: The Honorable State Senators
The Honorable State Representatives
All members of the General Law Committee

From:

John T. Hoyer
Former State Representative-1987-1991
37th District, East Lyme & Montville

Dear Legislators,

I had intended to present this testimony personally, but circumstances beyond my control prevented me from being there today.

It has come to my attention that in the last year or so, my full credit card number has appeared on the "Merchants" copy of some bill receipts. When I questioned why the full number was appearing, I was told to "Scratch it off." I would then point out to the person taking this information, that the number would still be available in its entirety in the "Machine". I would not be able to protect my information from people who could access the machine. In addition, I was told that only in new credit card machines was the whole number being printed out.

The danger of identity theft and misuse of the credit card number seems obvious. I ask that the committee support this bill to protect our citizens from this danger.

Recently, Rhode Island has passed such legislation to protect its citizens. However, if we do not put some "teeth" in the law, it will not achieve its goals. The merchants who use machines that print out the entire credit card number should be given a reasonable time to modify their machines. After that date, they should be fined in order to protect the public.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

John T. Hoyer
Former State Rep.
37th District